1 <u>CLAIMS</u>

2 We claim:

3 1. A communications system for communicating between an information provider and a

4 user, comprising:

5 (A) a client computer system, wherein said client computer system is a digital

6 computer;

7 (B) a local area network connected to said client computer system;

8 (C) a server computer connected to said local area network to provide a means of

9 communicating between said local area network and one or more external

10 communication channels;

11 (D) a satellite communication channel connected to said server computer by a radio

12 frequency link; and

13 (E) an information provider connected to one or more external communication

14 channels for the purpose of providing information to one or more said client

15 computer systems.

16 2. A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user

17 as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system is a personal computer.

18 3. A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user

19 as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system is a Macintosh computer.

20 4. A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user

21 as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system is a computer workstation.

22 5. A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user

1   as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system is a mini computer.

2   6.   A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user

3   as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system is a mainframe computer.

4   7.   A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user

5   as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system is a special purpose digital

6   computer.

7   8.   A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user,

8   as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system has a Windows operating

9   system.

10   9.   A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user,

11   as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system has a Windows 95 operating

12   system.

13   10.   A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user,

14   as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system has a Windows NT operating

15   system.

16   11.   A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user,

17   as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system has a Macintosh operating

18   system.

19   12.   A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user,

20   as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system has a Unix operating system.

21   13.   A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user,

22   as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system has a Linux operating system.

1   14.   A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user,

2   as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system has an OS/2 operating system.

3   15.   A communications system for communicating between an information provider and a

4   user, as recited in claim 1, wherein said local area network is a IPX network.

5   16.   A communications system for communicating between an information provider and a

6   user, as recited in claim 1, wherein said local area network is a IP network.

7   17.   A communications system for communicating between an information provider and a

8   user, as recited in claim 1, wherein said information provider is an internet service

9   provider.

10   18.   A communications system for communicating between an information provider and a

11   user, as recited in claim 1, wherein said information provider is a software distributor.

12   19.   A communications system for communicating between an information provider and a

13   user, as recited in claim 1, further comprising: a modem electrically connected to said

14   server computer to transmit data electronically to a telephone land line.

15   20.   A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider

16   and a user, comprising:

17   (A)   receiving data from said information service provider by a satellite

18   communications channel; and

19   (B)   conveying said received data across a local area network to one or more digital

20   computer systems.

21   21.   A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider

22   and a user, as recited in claim 20, further comprising:

1   (C)   generating a request from said one or more digital computer systems to said

2   information service provider.

3   22.   A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider

4   and a user, as recited in claim 20, further comprising:

5   (D)   conveying said generated request to said information service provide by a land

6   line communication channel.

7   23.   A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider

8   and a user, as recited in claim 20, further comprising:

9   (D)   conveying said generated request to said information service provide by a satellite

10   communication channel.

11   24.   A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider

12   and a user, as recited in claim 20, further comprising:

13   (D)   conveying said generated request to said information service provide by a wireless

14   communication channel.

15   25.   A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider

16   and a user, as recited in claim 20, further comprising:

17   (D)   conveying said generated request to said information service provide by a routed

18   communication channel.

19   26.   A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider an

20   a user, as recited in claim 20, further comprising: receiving data from said satellite

21   communications channel into computer hardware memory.

22   27.   A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider an

1   a user, as recited in claim 20, further comprising: checking to determine if said received

2   data has an IP format.

3   28.   A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider

4   and a user, as recited in claim 20, further comprising: checking to determine if said

5   received data has a packetized format.

6   29.   A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider

7   and a user, as recited in claim 20, wherein said one or more digital computer systems are

8   connected electrically by a local area network.

9   30.   A method for controlling the transfer of information between an information service

10   provider and a user, comprising:

11   (A)   receiving data from said information service, wherein said received data has a

12   protocol identifier;

13   (B)   determining the protocol of said received data; and

14   (C)   delivering said data according to said protocol of said received data to a client

15   computer.

16   31.   A method for controlling the transfer of information between an information service

17   provider and a user, as recited in claim 30, further comprising:

18   (D)   receiving a return packet of data from said client computer.

19   32.   A method for controlling the transfer of information between an information service

20   provider and a user, as recited in claim 31, further comprising:

21   (E)   delivering said returned packet of data from said client computer to said

22   information service provider.

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1   33.   A computer program to manage communications between an information service

2   provider and a user, comprising:

3   (A)   a routine for receiving information from said information service;

4   (B)   a routine for testing said received information to determine the source of said

5   information;

6   (C)   a routine for delivering said received information to a digital computer system.

7   34.   A computer program to manage communications between an information service

8   provider and a user, as recited in claim 33, further comprising: a routine for determining

9   an age value for said received information.

10   35.   A computer program to manage communications between an information service

11   provider and a user, as recited in claim 33, further comprising: a routine for replacing old

12   received information with newer received information.

13   36.   A system for managing the communications between an information service provider and

14   a user, comprising:

15   (A)   a digital computer system connected to a local area network;

16   (B)   a first interface device for communicating between said local area network and a

17   satellite communication channel;

18   (C)   a first connection between said satellite communication channel and a source of

19   information;

20   (D)   a second connection between said land line communication channel and a source

21   of information; and

22   (E)   a means for controlling the flow of information between said digital computer

1   system and said source of information.

2   37.   A system for managing the communications between an information service provider and

3   a user, as recited in claim 36 further comprising a second interface device for

4   communicating between said local area network and a land line.

5   38.   A system for managing the communications between an information service provider and

6   a user, as recited in claim 36 further comprising a second interface device for

7   communicating between said local area network and a wireless channel.

8   39.   A system for managing the communications between an information service provider and

9   a user, as recited in claim 36 further comprising a second interface device for

10   communicating with said local area network to a satellite.

11   40.   A system for managing the communications between an information service provider and

12   a user, as recited in claim 36 further comprising a second interface device for

13   communicating with said local area network to a routed channel.